

Services in its Division of Youth Services (DYS), which also provided oversight for the confinement facilities for court-involved youth (*i.e.*, training schools and detention centers). This marked the first major effort at the state level to bring about a more structured approach to establishing and maintaining programs in local communities for court-involved juveniles or youth who were “at risk” by their behavior to become involved in the juvenile justice system. CBA also marked the beginning of a new approach with the state and counties partnering in their efforts to create resources specific to the particular needs of a county. The process for CBA funding involved the county submission of funding proposals for programs in their respective locales to the state-level CBA office. Funding for approved proposals was disbursed to counties, which then provided oversight of their respective CBA programs through local advisory councils known as Youth Services Advisory Councils. These Councils, composed of community leaders and representatives from youth-related and law enforcement agencies, had the primary responsibilities of planning and overseeing CBA-funded programs. CBA operated in this manner, with few changes, for over 25 years.

The Establishment and Development of JCPCs

The Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 1998 brought about the next change in community programming, which culminated in the system that currently exists. As a result of this legislation, the two entities housing the majority of services for delinquent and undisciplined juveniles in the state, the aforementioned DHS and the Juvenile Services Division within the Administrative Office of the Courts, were combined to create a single cabinet level agency, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (which, in 2000, became the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention – DJJDP). Through this consolidation of services, the Department was authorized to coordinate and administer all services associated with the juvenile justice system, including community-based programming. With DJJDP assuming more of a leadership and oversight role than had previously existed under DHS, operations for programming became more centralized.

Community-based programming was redefined and expanded statutorily by the reform. The previous legislative intent of community programming directed that program services be targeted at court-involved juveniles (*i.e.*, delinquent and undisciplined youth), and especially those who were in jeopardy of being committed to training school. With the enactment of the new juvenile laws, the intent of the General Assembly for community-based services went beyond the previous mandate of targeting court-involved youth by adding juveniles who are at risk for delinquency. This intent, reflected in G.S. 143B-543, states the following:

It is the intent of the General Assembly to prevent juveniles who are at risk from becoming delinquent. The primary intent of this Part is to develop community-based alternatives to youth development centers and to provide community-based delinquency, substance abuse, and gang prevention strategies and programs. Additionally, it is the intent of the General Assembly to provide noninstitutional dispositional alternatives that will protect the community and the juveniles.

The new laws retained local advisory councils but changed the name to Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils. Statutory adjustments gave the councils a more structured process for member appointments and extended their powers and duties. Each JCPC is capped at 26